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II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

Our proposed project will address: instructional effectiveness, learning focused innovation, and improved access and infrastructure for learning. The goals and objectives are strongly and clearly linked to student learning, Indiana Academic Standards, our School Improvement Plan (Junior High Academy), and our Three Year Technology Plan 2008-2011. We will accomplish these goals and objectives through: professional development for teaching staff and support personnel, development of curricula integrated with technology, and increased use of laptop computers for students in all curricular areas.

Beginning August of 2009, the teaching staff and students in grades 7 and 8 will be involved in a junior high academy at Hamilton Community Schools. With this approach to teaching and learning for these middle school students, our proposed project will make it possible to include increased use of technology and allow us to accomplish the following:

- Create and promote a statewide culture of academic excellence
- Improve instructional quality and enhance school governance and leadership
- Embrace innovative technologies and improve the operational efficiencies of learning support systems to facilitate student learning

However, all the above require access to computers: 1) in each subject area, 2) every class period, 3) every school day; we need these grant monies to purchase enough computers for each of the approximately 100 junior high students. Our ultimate goal is to have one computer assigned to each student for the whole school year. The student will sign the same computer out daily, carry it to and use it in each class period for each subject area; the Junior High Academy's team room will house computer carts/charging stations for the computers when not in use.

The Hamilton Community Schools (HCS) junior high academy's instructional faculty and support personnel will be involved in professional development opportunities that will increase their instructional effectiveness.

Professional opportunities will include, but not limited to: 1) Open Office (saving \$ by using this instead of Microsoft Office), 2) operation of visual presenters, 3) classroom management software and internet use in the classroom, and 4) instructional coaching for individual student laptop use in CORE subject areas and career survey and exploration classes. After involvement in these professional development opportunities, the teaching staff will be better prepared to increase technology use integrated with daily instruction, and become familiar with innovative, instructional strategies and technologies that will improve instructional quality and engage students. Title II and related funding will be used to support these relevant and effective professional development trainings. The Junior High Academy Room will house the computer carts/charging stations for the computers.

The Hamilton Community Schools (HCS) junior high academy's instructional faculty and support personnel will use the above professional development opportunities to plan and implement instruction that is innovative and learning-focused. With these grant monies, we will be able to expand students' access to digital content and their learning opportunities by creating engaging learning environments at the middle school level.